

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12-17 and 20-23 are pending in the application.

Please add claims 24 - 27.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) An electromagnetic wave shielding material consisting essentially of:

a fibrous structure base material and a conductive metal layer, wherein the fibrous structure base material is a three dimensionally knitted base material having a heat-fusing thread in at least a portion of the three dimensionally knitted base material, said heat-fusing thread is fuse-bonded at at least one contacting point, the three dimensionally knitted base material further comprising an upper ground structure (1), a lower ground structure (1) and connecting thread (2) interconnecting the upper ground structure (1) and the lower ground structure (1),

the conductive metal layer is constituted by subjecting the three dimensionally knitted base material to an electroless plating with at least one conductive metal, and

the connecting thread (2) of the three dimensionally knitted base material comprising portions(3) that extend in a sectional direction of the three dimensionally knitted base material, between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), the portions (3) extending between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) are entirely void of connecting thread (2) from both ground structures (1,1) and are situated between segments of the wave shielding material containing the connecting thread (2) extending between and interconnecting both the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), whereby minimizing debris upon cutting the electromagnetic wave shield material in the portions(3).

2. Canceled.

3. (Previously presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, characterized in that a heat-fusing thread is used by the amount of 30 to 90 mass % of the thread as one constituent of the three dimensionally knitted base material.

4. (Previously presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, characterized in that the heat-fusing thread is a composite thread having a core-sheath structure in which the core of the thread is made of polyester of one type and the sheath portion of the thread is made of polyester of another type whose melting point is lower than that of the polyester of the one type, and the weight ratio of the core with respect to the sheath is in the range of 1:2 to 9:1.

5. Canceled.

6. (Original) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, characterized in that the three dimensionally knitted base material has a double raschel structure.

7. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, wherein a conductive metal layer of the electromagnetic wave shielding material is coated with a synthetic resin.

8. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, wherein the melting point of the heat-fusing thread is in the range of 100 to 190°C.

9. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 3, wherein the melting point of the heat-fusing thread is in the range of 100 to 190°C.

10. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, comprising portions having the connecting thread and portions omitting the connecting thread in wale and/or course directions of the knitted base material.

11. Canceled.

12. (Previously presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, having the structure of one of

a normally intersecting connecting thread which normally intersects and interconnects the upper and lower ground structures,

a diagonally intersecting connecting thread which diagonally intersects and interconnects the upper and lower ground structures, and

a truss structure including both the normally and diagonally intersecting connecting threads in combined manner.

13. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, wherein the upper ground structure is connected with the lower ground structure by alternatively arranging portions having the connecting thread and portions not having the connecting thread with a predetermined distance therebetween in wale and/or course directions of the knitted base material.

14. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 13, wherein the portions not having the connecting thread are arranged in both the wale and course directions.

15. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 13, wherein the portions not having the connecting thread are arranged in either the course or the wale directions.

16. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 13, being structured and arranged to form gaskets by being cut at the portions not having the connecting thread.

17. (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic wave shielding material consisting essentially of containing

a fibrous structure base material and a conductive metal layer, wherein the fibrous structure base material is a three dimensionally knitted base material composed of an upper ground structure (1), a lower ground structure (1) and connecting thread (2) interconnecting the upper ground structure (1) and the lower ground structure (1),

the conductive metal layer is constituted by subjecting the three dimensionally knitted base material to an electroless plating with at least one conductive metal, and the connecting thread (2) of the three dimensionally knitted base material comprising portions(3) that extend, in a sectional direction of the three dimensionally knitted base material between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), the portions (3) extending between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) are entirely void of connecting thread (2) from both ground structures (1,1) and are situated between segments of the wave shielding material containing the connecting thread (2) extending between and interconnecting both the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), whereby minimizing debris upon cutting the electromagnetic wave shield material in the portions(3).

18. (Canceled.)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, withstanding a pressure at about 50% compression of at least about 10 as measured by the device TYPE PF-11 manufactured by Rafurokku Co. and possessing an electromagnetic damping rate of at least about 85 dB 1GHz as measured according to the KEC method.

21. (Previously presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, characterized in that the heat-fusing thread is positioned at the portions which constitute the upper ground structure and the lower ground structure.

22. (Previously presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, characterized in that the connecting thread is monofilament.

23. (Previously presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 22 wherein the monofilament is polyester monofilament.

24. (New) An electromagnetic wave shielding material comprising:  
a fibrous structure base material and a conductive metal layer, wherein the fibrous structure base material is a three dimensionally knitted base material having a heat-fusing thread in at least a portion of the three dimensionally knitted base material, said heat-fusing thread is fuse-bonded at at least one contacting point, the three dimensionally knitted base material further comprising an upper ground structure (1), a lower ground structure (1) and connecting thread (2) interconnecting the upper ground structure (1) and the lower ground structure (1),

the conductive metal layer is constituted by subjecting the three dimensionally knitted base material to an electroless plating with at least one conductive metal, and

the connecting thread (2) of the three dimensionally knitted base material comprising portions(3) that extend, in a sectional direction of the three dimensionally knitted base material, between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), the portions

(3) extending between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) are entirely void of omitting connecting thread (2) from both ground structures (1,1) and an interior therebetween are situated between segments of the wave shielding material containing the connecting thread (2) extending between and interconnecting both the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), whereby minimizing debris upon cutting the electromagnetic wave shield material in the portions(3).

25.(New). An electromagnetic wave shielding material comprising:

a fibrous structure base material and a conductive metal layer, wherein the fibrous structure base material is a three dimensionally knitted base material having a heat-fusing thread in at least a portion of the three dimensionally knitted base material and is free of foam, said heat-fusing thread is fuse-bonded at at least one contacting point, the three dimensionally knitted base material further comprising an upper ground structure (1), a lower ground structure (1) and connecting thread (2) interconnecting the upper ground structure (1) and the lower ground structure (1),

the conductive metal layer is constituted by subjecting the three dimensionally knitted base material to an electroless plating with at least one conductive metal, and

the connecting thread (2) of the three dimensionally knitted base material comprising portions(3) that extend in a sectional direction of the three dimensionally knitted base material, between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), the portions (3) extending between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) entirely void of connecting thread (2) from both ground structures (1,1) and are situated between segments of the wave shielding material containing the connecting thread (2) extending between and interconnecting both the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), whereby minimizing debris upon cutting the electromagnetic wave shield material in the portions(3).

26. (New). An electromagnetic wave shielding material containing

a fibrous structure base material and a conductive metal layer, wherein the fibrous structure material is free of foam and is a three dimensionally knitted base material composed of an upper ground structure (1), a lower ground structure (1) and connecting

thread (2) interconnecting the upper ground structure (1) and the lower ground structure (1),

the conductive metal layer is constituted by subjecting the three dimensionally knitted base material to an electroless plating with at least one conductive metal, and the connecting thread (2) of the three dimensionally knitted base material comprising portions(3) that extend, in a sectional direction of the three dimensionally knitted base material between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), the portions (3) extending between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) are entirely void of connecting thread (2) from both ground structures (1,1) and are situated between segments of the wave shielding material containing the connecting thread (2) extending between and interconnecting both the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), whereby minimizing debris upon cutting the electromagnetic wave shield material in the portions(3).

27. (New) An electromagnetic wave shielding material consisting of:

a fibrous structure base material and a conductive metal layer, wherein the fibrous structure base material is a three dimensionally knitted base material having a heat-fusing thread in at least a portion of the three dimensionally knitted base material, said heat-fusing thread is fuse-bonded at at least one contacting point, the three dimensionally knitted base material further comprising an upper ground structure (1), a lower ground structure (1) and connecting thread (2) interconnecting the upper ground structure (1) and the lower ground structure (1),

the conductive metal layer is constituted by subjecting the three dimensionally knitted base material to an electroless plating with at least one conductive metal, and

the connecting thread (2) of the three dimensionally knitted base material comprising portions(3) that extend in a sectional direction of the three dimensionally knitted base material, between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), the portions (3) extending between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) are entirely void of connecting thread (2) from both ground structures (1,1) and are situated between segments of the wave shielding material containing the connecting thread (2) extending

between and interconnecting both the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), whereby minimizing debris upon cutting the electromagnetic wave shield material in the portions(3).